

What is claimed is:

1. (original) A supporting structure for a cupboard or shelf system with a supporting rod positioned between two joints,

wherein

the supporting rod (3) includes at least one pivotable tab (9) positioned parallel to the longitudinal axis of the supporting rod (3).

2. (original) The supporting structure as recited in Claim 1,

wherein

a hinge (8) with the tab (9) connects two supporting rod sections (2, 7) of the supporting rod (3).

3. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the hinge (8) has an axial, central threaded hole (25).

4. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the hinge (8) has a central body (15) on which a pivotable sleeve (14) is mounted, to which the tab (9) is connected.

5. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the sleeve (14) is inserted axially flush into a groove (16) in the central body (15).

6. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the sleeve (14) is inserted radially flush into a groove (16) in the central body (15).

7. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the geometry of the outer jacket of the central body (15) with the inserted sleeve (14) corresponds to that of the supporting rod or the supporting rod sections (2, 7).

8. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the tab (9) is displaced on the sleeve (14) relative to the axis (10) by a distance corresponding to the thickness of a door or shutter (11).

9. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein,

the central body (15) tapers at both ends in the axial direction in the shape of a truncated cone.

10. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the central body (15) has a two-component configuration, a first subpiece (17) including an axially extending, central inner thread (19), and a second subpiece (18) engaging with a plug-like, externally threaded projection (20) in the central inner thread (19) of the first subpiece (17).

11. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the supporting rod sections (2, 7) are formed by hollow profiles, and the hinge (8) is connected therewith via two dowel rods (21, 22) inserted in the supporting rod sections (2, 7).

12. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the joint (1) is attached to a supporting rod section (2) via a dowel rod (23).

13. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the outer dimensions of the central body (15) and the sleeve (14) of the hinge (8) correspond to those of a joint (1).

14. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein,

at both ends, the joint (1) tapers in the shape of a truncated cone in the axial direction, and a cylindrical section has a slid-on sleeve (32).

15. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

a shaped part (35) that creates a form-fit transition is located between the joint (1) and the supporting rod (2).

16. (currently amended) The supporting structure as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,

wherein

the dowel rod (21) includes two segments (28, 29), which are movable relative to each other, have a rectangular cross-section, and have matching wedge-shaped surfaces, the segments (28, 29) being clamped together via a screw (26).